

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TURIN

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, YO

SUBJECT: REPORTED YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN PROTOCOL SETTling TRIESTE/
ZONE B DISPUTE

REF: ROME 13267

1. AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE ROME DAILY IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA
ON SEPTEMBER 23 HAS REKINDLED PRESS SPECULATION TO THE EFFECT
THAT YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY WILL SIGN A PROTOCOL, PERHAPS BY THE
END OF OCTOBER, WHICH WILL BRING TO A CONCLUSION THEIR DISPUTE
OVER THE REGIONS OF TRIESTE/ZONE B. STORY IS FRONT PAGE NEWS
IN VIRTUALLY ALL NEWSPAPERS SEPTEMBER 24 WITH EXCEPTION OF
COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'UNITA WHICH CARRIES BRIEF MENTION OF
THE SUBJECT ON ITS BACK PAGE.

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2. ACCORDING TO THE IL GIORNALE STORY, THE REPORTED PROTOCOL PROVIDES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE PRESENT DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN TRIESTE AND ZONE B AS THE LEGAL BORDER BETWEEN ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA. FURTHERMORE, ITALY WILL RECOGNIZE YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B AND YUGOSLAVIA WILL RECOGNIZE ITALIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CITY OF TRIESTE. AS PART OF THE PACKAGE, YUGOSLAVIA HAS REAAAPORTEDLY AGREED TO SOME DORDER REVISIONS IN THE AREA OF GORIZIA AND TO SOME MEASURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF TRIESTE. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONE ITEM FOR BILATERAL CONSIDERATION WAS THE FACT THAT THE MAIN CHANNEL FOR THE PORT OF TRIESTE WOULD HAVE PASSED THROUGH YUGOSLAV THUS NECESSITATING THE NEED FOR SOME AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT.)

3. THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IS REMAINING MUM IN THE FACE OF PRESSURES TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE REPORTS WHICH ARE NOW CIRCULATING. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON SEPTEMBER 23, AN MFA OFFICIAL REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COMMENT, POINTING OUT THAT THE MINISTRY DID NOT WISH TO ANTICIPATE THE ANSWER OF THE GOVERNMENT TO OUTSTANDING PARLIMENTARY QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT. AN EMBASSY INQUIRY AT THE YUGOSLAV DESK ON SEPTEMBER 23 ELICITED THE SAME TYPE OF RESPONSE.

4. COMMENT: THE EXTENT OF THE PRESS COVERAGE TO THE LATEST REPORTS, INDICATES THAT TRIESTE/ZONE B IS STILL SOMETHING OF A LIVE ISSUE POLITICALLY HERE IN ITALY. THUS FAR, WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT COMING DOWN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON A PROTOCOL ALONG THE LINES WHICH ARE BEING REPORTED. FROM PARLIAMENTARY INTERROGATIONS ALREADY SUBMITTED, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT OPPOSITION TO AN AGREED PROTOCOL WOULD COME FORM THE NEO-FASCISTS AND THE LIBERALS. THE LOW KEY COVERAGE WHICH L'UNITA GIVES THE CURRENT REPORTS INDICATES THE CAUTIOUS MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMUNISTS WILL APPROACH THE ISSUE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROTOCOL IF IT SHOULD COME TO A VOTE. VOLPE

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